

**LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A security paper for producing value documents, exemplified by ~~such as~~ bank notes, passports or[[,]] identification documents or the like, comprising ~~having~~ a flat substrate (12) provided at least partly with a dirt-repellent protective layer (14) for extending the life time and fitness for circulation, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the protective layer (14) comprises at least two lacquer layers (16, 18), a first lower one of said lacquer layers ~~layer~~ (16) being formed by a physically drying lacquer layer applied to the substrate (12) which makes contact with the substrate (12) therebelow and closes its pores, and a second upper one of said lacquer layers ~~layer~~ (18) protecting the substrate (12) from physical and chemical influences.
2. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] security paper according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the substrate is formed by an unprinted (12) or printed (12, 20) cotton paper.
3. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] security paper according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the lower lacquer layer (16) forms a smooth and contiguous layer on the substrate.
4. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] security paper according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of claims 1 to 3~~, ~~characterized in that~~ the first lower lacquer layer is elastic.
5. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] security paper according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of claims 1 to 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ the first lower lacquer layer (16) is formed by a water-based dispersion lacquer layer.
6. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] security paper according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of claims 1 to 5~~, ~~characterized in that~~ the first lower lacquer layer comprises a polyurethane.

7. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] security paper according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that~~ the first lower lacquer layer is based on a water-based dispersion of aliphatic polyester polyurethanes or styrene-acrylic polyurethanes.

8. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] security paper according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that~~ the second upper lacquer layer (18) is formed by a radiation-curing and/or physically drying lacquer layer.

9. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] security paper according to claim 8, wherein ~~characterized in that the~~ each lacquer layer is selected from the group consisting of ~~formed by~~ a UV-crosslinked lacquer layer, a water-based dispersion lacquer layer ~~or~~ and a hybrid lacquer layer.

10. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] security paper according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that~~ the second upper lacquer layer comprises silicones and/or wax.

11. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] security paper according to claim 9, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the UV-crosslinked lacquer layer is based on an acrylate system, the water-based dispersion lacquer layer on a styrene-acrylic system, and the hybrid lacquer layer on a system comprising aliphatic urethane acrylates and acrylates with photoinitiators.

12. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] security paper according to claim 8, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the composition of the upper lacquer layer (18) is selected with respect to brittleness and surface tension so as to obtain a predetermined haptics of the security paper, in particular a predetermined smoothness, sound and/or flexural stiffness.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security paper according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that~~ the second upper lacquer layer (18) is disposed directly on the first lower lacquer layer (16).

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security paper according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that~~ a further lacquer layer comprising water-based dispersion lacquer is disposed between the second upper (18) and first lower (16) lacquer layers.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security paper according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of claims 1 to 14, characterized in that~~ the lacquer layers (16, 18) of the protective layer are conditioned with each other in their adhesion properties so as to form a highly resistant bond.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security paper according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of claims 1 to 15, characterized in that~~ the first lower lacquer layer (16) has a low glass transition temperature to increase the adhesion and adhesion promotion.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security paper according to claim 1, wherein either or both ~~at least one of claims 1 to 16, characterized in that~~ the second upper (18) and/or first lower (16) lacquer layer is transparent and colorless.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security paper according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of claims 1 to 17, characterized in that~~ the second upper lacquer layer (18) has antibacterial fungus proofing.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security paper according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of claims 1 to 18, characterized in that~~ the first lower lacquer layer (16) is present on the substrate (12) in a coating weight of from 1 to 6 g/m<sup>2</sup>, preferably 2 to 4 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security paper according to claim 1, wherein at least one of claims 1 to 19, characterized in that the first upper lacquer layer (18) is present on the substrate (12) in a coating weight of from 0.5 to 3 g/m<sup>2</sup>, preferably 1 to 2 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security paper according to claim 1, wherein at least one of claims 1 to 20, characterized in that the substrate (12, 20) is printed with characters or patterns (20), and the protective layer (14) is applied to the printed substrate (12, 20) and/or the first lower lacquer layer is printed to which the second upper lacquer layer is applied, and/or the second upper lacquer layer is printed.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security paper according to claim 1, wherein at least one of claims 1 to 21, characterized in that the protective layer (14) contains at least one gap.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security paper according to claim 21, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the gap has a security element incorporated therein.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security paper according to claim 1, wherein at least one of claims 1 to 21, characterized in that the protective layer (14) is applied to the flat substrate (12) all over.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ security paper according to claim 1, wherein at least one of claims 1 to 24, characterized in that the flat substrate (12) is provided with the dirt-repellent protective layer (14) on its two main faces.

26. (Currently Amended) A value document, exemplified by such as a bank note, passport~~[[,]]~~ or identification document ~~or the like,~~ comprising characterized in that the value document has a security paper according to claim 1 at least one of claims 1 to 25.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a security paper in particular for a value document, exemplified by ~~such as~~ a bank note, passport~~[[,]]~~ or identification document ~~or the like, comprising~~ characterized by the following steps:

- a) supplying a flat substrate;
- b) applying a dirt-repellent protective layer to the substrate, the protective layer being applied by
  - b<sub>1</sub>) applying a physically drying lacquer layer to the substrate as ~~the~~ a first lower layer of the protective layer to make contact with the substrate therebelow and close its pores; and
  - b<sub>2</sub>) applying a second ~~an~~ upper layer of the protective layer to protect the substrate from physical and chemical influences.

28. (Currently Amended) The ~~The~~ [[A]] method according to claim 27, wherein ~~characterized in that~~

- b<sub>2</sub>) the second upper layer applied is either or both a radiation-curing and/or physically drying layer, and
- c) the second upper layer is crosslinked, cured and/or dried by irradiation with electromagnetic radiation.

29. (Currently Amended) The ~~The~~ [[A]] method according to claim 27 ~~or 28~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the flat substrate supplied is a printed or unprinted cotton paper.

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~The~~ [[A]] method according to claim 27, wherein ~~at least one of claims 27 to 29, characterized in that~~ the first lower layer applied is an elastic material~~[[,]] in particular a water-based dispersion lacquer layer.~~

31. (Currently Amended) The ~~The~~ [[A]] method according to claim 27, wherein ~~at least one of claims 27 to 30, characterized in that~~ the first lower lacquer layer is applied in an amount of coating which closes the pores of the substrate and forms a smooth and cohesive surface on the substrate.

32. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 27, wherein ~~at least one of claims 27 to 31, characterized in that~~ the first lower lacquer layer is applied to the substrate in an amount of from 2.5 to 15 g/m<sup>2</sup>, preferably 5 to 10 g/m<sup>2</sup> (wet weight).

33. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 27, wherein ~~at least one of claims 27 to 32, characterized in that~~ the first lower layer is dried prior to application of the second upper layer.

34. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 27, wherein ~~at least one of claims 27 to 33, characterized in that~~ the second upper lacquer layer applied is a UV-crosslinking lacquer layer, a water-based dispersion lacquer layer or a hybrid lacquer.

35. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 27, wherein ~~at least one of claims 27 to 34, characterized in that~~ the composition of the second upper lacquer layer is selected with respect to brittleness and surface tension so as to obtain a predetermined haptics of the security paper, in particular a predetermined smoothness, sound and/or flexural stiffness.

36. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 27, wherein ~~at least one of claims 27 to 35, characterized in that~~ a printed image is printed on the substrate prior to application of the protective layer.

37. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 27, wherein ~~at least one of claims 27 to 36, characterized in that~~ a printed image is printed on the first lower lacquer layer after application of the first lower lacquer layer, and/or a printed image is printed on the second upper lacquer layer after application of the second upper lacquer layer.

38. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 27, wherein ~~one of claims 27 to 37, characterized in that~~ the unlacquered or lacquered substrate is printed by the intaglio printing process.

39. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 27, wherein ~~at least one of claims 27 to 38, characterized in that~~ the first lower and/or second upper lacquer layer is applied by a flexographic printing process.

40. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 39, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the lacquer layers applied by a flexographic printing process are applied in an amount of coating of altogether 3 to 12 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

41. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 27, wherein ~~at least one of claims 27 to 38, characterized in that~~ the first lower and/or second upper lacquer layer is applied by a screen printing process.

42. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 41, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the lacquer layers applied by a screen printing process are applied in an amount of coating of altogether 5 to 15 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

43. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 27, wherein ~~at least one of claims 27 to 38, characterized in that~~ the first lower and/or second upper lacquer layer is applied by the offset printing process or by the indirect letterpress printing process.

44. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 27, wherein ~~at least one of claims 27 to 43, characterized in that~~ the protective layer is applied to the substrate all over.

45. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 27, wherein ~~at least one of claims 27 to 44, characterized in that~~ the flat substrate is provided with the dirt-repellent protective layer on its two main faces.

46. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 27, wherein ~~at least one of claims 27 to 45, characterized in that~~ the flat substrate supplied in step a) is a paper-

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of-value sheet comprising a plurality of single copies for which the steps b), b<sub>1</sub>) and b<sub>2</sub>) are performed in the same run in each case.

47. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ method according to claim 27, wherein ~~at least one of claims 27 to 46, characterized in that~~ the first lower and second upper lacquer layers are applied to the substrate in-line in a sheet-fed lacquering machine.